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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT  
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OF WOKING

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*Annual*  
**REPORT**

*of the*

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

*and*

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER

1949



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### ADDENDUM

Since this Report was printed, the Registrar General has revised the comparability factors for births and deaths, these now being 1.02 and .95 respectively.

The figures in this Report should therefore be amended as follows:-

Birth Rate (revised)	for 13.55	read 14.11
Death Rate (revised)	for 10.34	read 10.23



# **The Urban District Council of Woking**

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

### **Chairman:**

COUNCILLOR F. E. SOWDEN, J.P.

### **Vice-Chairman:**

COUNCILLOR G. B. SHAW

### **The Chairman of the Council:**

COUNCILLOR G. G. M. PRITCHETT

CLR. J. ATKINSON	CLR. G. J. GORING
CLR. R. G. BATTEN	CLR. H. HANDLEY JONES
CLR. R. G. BELDAM	CLR. CMDR. A. M. HARRIS
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CLR. W. L. DARBY	CLR. CAPT. W. D. RITCHIE
CLR. W. A. DIXON	CLR. J. A. TERRY

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

### **Medical Officer of Health:**

N. HOOD LINZEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond.)

### **Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Officer:**

A. G. DAVIES, M.S.I.A.

### **Sanitary Inspectors:**

H. W. MONKS, M.S.I.A.

L. E. SNELLING, M.S.I.A.  
(Resigned 31.12.49)

### **Clerical Staff:**

R. A. GREEN

Miss P. M. JONES

Miss G. H. CURTIS



# ANNUAL REPORT

*of the*  
**Medical Officer of Health for 1949**

*Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Guildford Road, Woking.  
31st July, 1950*

**To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee**

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report upon the health of Woking for 1949. The report has been prepared upon the usual lines and in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

Statistics can and perhaps do give an impression of dullness, but if thoughtfully perused they can often make interesting reading and for this reason I do commend the pages which follow as being of interest.

Since 1946 the birth rate has steadily fallen and for the year under review the figure is lower than was the case in 1939. Into the present figure one can read of the difficulties and discouragement caused through housing, economics and other factors which restrain the young people of to-day from embarking on family life. Unless and until these disturbing issues are remedied there would seem little likelihood of any birth rate increase.

The death rate compares very favourably with the figure for England and Wales and perhaps shows in some measure the health-giving properties of Surrey sun and air.

There were 67 notified cases of Tuberculosis, a much increased figure on 1948, but still lower than the 1947 figure.

I am still of opinion that little is done for elderly people in the provision of self-contained houses suitable for their needs and abilities. Our experience in Woking shows that there are many people in this category living in homes much too large for them to look after but to which they cling in preference to institutional life.

The staff have again performed their duties conscientiously and well and even if swamped in the ever-increasing surge of official papers and documents have contrived to assist and advise those requiring our help, and I am indebted to them. To the Chairman and Members of the Committee I would express thanks for their continued help and support.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

N. HOOD LINZEE,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres), 15,712.

Estimate of Resident Population, Mid-year 1949, 46,130.

Year	Houses	Population	Average No. per House
1891	1,584	9,776	6·2
1901	2,807	16,222	5·8
1911	4,072	24,808	6·0
1921	5,078	26,430	5·8
1931	6,853	29,950	4·4
1941	10,743	47,770	4·4
1949	11,557	46,130	4·0

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1949) according to rate books, 11,557.

Rateable Value, £467,861.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £1,890.

## Social Conditions

Woking is a residential town situated within 25 miles of London and consequently a very high proportion of the residents find employment in London.

A total of 1,947 acres comprises common and open spaces and there are many recreation grounds to provide open air facilities for the children and adults. In the 34-acre Woking Park there is in addition to normal activities a magnificent open-air swimming pool.

An important addition made during the year was the provision of eight slipper baths in a building conveniently situated for the purpose.

Unemployment amongst Woking residents is somewhat lower than during 1948.

Classification	Dec. 31st 1945	Dec. 31st 1946	Dec. 31st 1947	Dec. 31st 1948	Dec. 31st 1949
Male Adults ..	15	47	121	123	96
Male Juveniles ..	1	8	7	17	13
Female Adults ..	8	33	43	60	44
Female Juveniles ..	0	5	6	16	13
Totals .. ..	24	93	177	216	166

### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1949

Live Births:—				Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	..	..	..	657	337	320
Illegitimate	..	..	..	30	13	17
Birth Rate, 14·89						
Still-births	..	..	..	11	6	5
Rate per 1,000 total births, 15·76						
Deaths	..	..	..	488	240	248
Death Rate (adjusted), 9·73						

The crude death rate for Woking is, strictly speaking, not comparable with the figures for England and Wales. In order to arrive at a correct figure the Registrar General has introduced a factor, the comparability factor. This factor for Woking is ·92, and the above figures have been adjusted accordingly.

Deaths from puerperal causes:—				Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	..	..	..	—	—
Other puerperal causes	..	..	..	—	—
Total	..	..	..	—	—

#### Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	24·74
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	21·31
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	100·0
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	77
Deaths from measles (all ages)	..	..	..	1
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	..	..	..	1
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	—

### Causes of Death during 1949

							Male	Female
All causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	240	248
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Whooping cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	4
Other tuberculous diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	—
Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	44
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2



**Causes of Death during 1949—continued.**

	Male	Female
Intra-cranial vascular lesions .. .. .	27	36
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ..	1	1
Heart disease .. .. .	80	70
Other circulatory diseases .. .. .	8	16
Bronchitis .. .. .	16	5
Pneumonia (all forms) .. .. .	5	9
Other respiratory diseases .. .. .	3	4
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .. .. .	3	2
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) .. .. .	—	—
Appendicitis .. .. .	—	—
Digestive diseases .. .. .	4	11
Acute and chronic nephritis .. .. .	7	7
Puerperal sepsis .. .. .	—	—
Other puerperal causes .. .. .	—	—
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc. .. .. .	7	7
Suicide .. .. .	5	2
Road traffic accidents .. .. .	1	—
Other violence .. .. .	4	2
All other causes .. .. .	18	23

**Births**

The statistics supplied by the Registrar General during 1949 show that the total number of registered live births allocated to Woking was 687—350 males and 337 females, the birth rate being 14·89 per 1,000 of the population. Of the total number of births 657 were legitimate and 30 illegitimate, or 4·37 per cent of the births.

In addition there were 11 still births, 6 male and 5 female.

**Live Births for the Past 10 Years**

Year	Number of Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate for England and Wales
1940	653	13·97	14·6
1941	702	14·69	14·2
1942	855	18·79	15·8
1943	812	18·58	16·5
1944	807	18·76	17·6
1945	735	17·49	16·1
1946	887	20·59	19·1
1947	865	19·61	20·5
1948	727	15·83	17·9
1949	687	14·89	16·7

The birth rate has exceeded the death rate for the past 10 years, the natural increment for this year being 199.

### Deaths

The total number of deaths registered in the district was 488—240 males and 248 females, equal to a death rate of 9·73 per thousand of the estimated population.

The deaths occurring outside the district of people really belonging to Woking were 138.

The following deaths occurred in Institutions outside the Woking district of people usually resident in Woking:

St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford	..	..	27
St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey	..	..	63
Sanatoria	..	..	1
London Hospitals	..	..	5
Other Hospitals and Institutions	..	..	26

There were 178 deaths within this district of persons not usually resident in Woking, 77 males and 101 females. Of these 60 males and 83 females died at Brookwood Mental Hospital.

### Death Rate for the Past Ten Years

Year	Woking Urban District	England and Wales
1940	10·32	14·3
1941	10·78	12·9
1942	10·81	11·6
1943	10·05	12·1
1944	10·86	11·6
1945	10·80	11·4
1946	10·63	11·5
1947	10·47	12·0
1948	10·58	10·8
1949	9·73	11·7

The principal causes of death, excluding those from zymotic diseases, are:—

Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	77
Heart disease	..	..	..	..	150	} 237
Inter-cranial vascular lesions	..	..	..	..	63	
Other circulatory diseases	..	..	..	..	24	
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	14	} 42
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	21	
Other respiratory diseases	..	..	..	..	7	
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	..	..	..	..	..	11

### Cancer

Cancer and malignant diseases were responsible for 77 deaths or 15·77 per cent of total deaths.

#### Deaths from Cancer

Year	Total Deaths	Cancer Deaths	Percentage
1940	508	73	14·37
1941	515	80	15·53
1942	492	81	16·46
1943	439	81	18·45
1944	467	77	16·49
1945	454	67	14·76
1946	458	68	14·85
1947	462	62	13·42
1948	486	93	19·14
1949	488	77	15·77

### Diseases of the Heart and Circulation

There were 237 deaths due to Heart and Circulation. This figure represents 48·56 per cent of the whole deaths.

#### Deaths from Heart Disease

Year	Total Deaths	Heart Disease Deaths	Percentage
1940	508	166	32·68
1941	515	184	35·73
1942	492	186	37·80
1943	439	155	35·31
1944	467	172	35·03
1945	454	174	38·33
1946	458	211	46·07
1947	462	205	44·37
1948	486	230	47·32
1949	488	237	48·56

### Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and other Respiratory Diseases

There were 14 deaths due to Pneumonia, 21 to Bronchitis, and 7 to other respiratory diseases. This gives a total of 42 or 8·61 per cent of total deaths.

Year	Total Deaths	Bronchitis, etc., Deaths	Percentage
1940	508	63	12·40
1941	515	70	13·59
1942	492	47	9·55
1943	439	51	11·62
1944	467	54	11·56
1945	454	59	12·99
1946	458	47	10·26
1947	462	57	12·34
1948	486	40	8·23
1949	488	42	8·61

### Deaths due to Violence

The figures given below indicate the manner in which Woking residents met their deaths from violence.

Road Traffic deaths	..	..	1
Drowning	..	..	2
Other causes	..	..	4

In addition to the above there were 7 suicides.

### Infantile Mortality

There were 17 infant deaths during the year (including transferable deaths) giving an Infant Mortality rate of 24·74 per 1,000 live births. The Infantile Death rate for illegitimate children in Woking was 100·0 per 1,000 illegitimate live births.



Year	No. of Deaths under 1 year	No. of Deaths under 2 years due to Diarrhoea and Enteritis	No. of live Births
1940	26	1	738
1941	30	1	1,034
1942	34	2	855
1943	30	—	812
1944	35	4	807
1945	23	1	735
1946	24	—	887
1947	26	4	865
1948	19	1	727
1949	17	—	687

The following tables show the causes of death and ages at death of infants under 1 year.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total No. under 1 month
Prematurity .. ..	5	1	—	—	6
Atelectasis .. ..	7	—	—	—	7
Broncho-pneumonia	1	—	—	—	1
Meningitis .. ..	—	1	—	—	1
Hydrops Foetalis ..	1	—	—	—	1

Cause of Death	1-3 months	4-6 months	7-9 months	10-12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Broncho-pneumonia	—	1	—	—	1



## Year 1949

	Rate per 1,000 of population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population									Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Live births	Still births	All causes	Typhoid Fever	Small-pox	Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polio-enceph.	Pneumonia	Tuberculosis	Whooping cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Infants under 1 year	Infants under 2 years
England and Wales ..	16.7	0.39	11.7	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.51	0.45	0.01	0.00	0.15	32	3.0
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	18.7	0.47	12.5	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.56	0.52	0.02	0.00	0.15	37	3.8
148 Smaller Towns (Resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) ..	18.0	0.40	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.49	0.42	0.01	0.00	0.14	30	2.4
London Administrative County ..	18.5	0.37	12.2	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.59	0.52	0.01	0.00	0.11	29	1.7
<b>WOKING URBAN DISTRICT</b> (Population 46,130) ..	14.89	0.24	9.73	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.30	0.28	0.02	0.00	0.00	24.74	0.00

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

### (a) Laboratory Facilities

The Surrey County Council is responsible for the administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Clinical material (sputum, swabs, etc.) in the ordinary course of events is sent to various available laboratories for examination.

Samples of milk and water for bacteriological examination are sent to The Public Health Laboratories, Epsom.

Samples of water for chemical examination are sent to the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London.

### (b) Ambulance Facilities

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Ambulance Service is administered by the Surrey County Council.

Ambulances are supplied from:—

Sharrard House, Heathside Road, Woking (Tel. Woking 2295), which is operated directly by the County Council.

The following additional facilities are still available:—

(a) British Red Cross Society, Ambulance Station, Boundary Road, Woking (Tel. Woking 2369), for accident and removal of cases to and from hospitals.

(b) Ottershaw Joint Isolation Hospital Board, Ottershaw (Tel. Ottershaw 30), used for removal of cases of infectious disease to and from the hospital.

### (c) Nursing in the Home

County Council Health Visitors undertake home visits required under the various schemes of the Surrey County Council, including Ante-Natal and Post-Natal supervision.

District Nurses who are affiliated to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing and the Surrey County Nursing Association, are provided by the Woking Health Society in the parts of the Urban District known as Woking, Old Woking, Horsell, Sutton Green, Mayford Green and Anthony's. During 1949 the number of cases attended was 822 (13,004 visits).

### (d) Hospitals

There have been no changes or developments with regard to the hospital facilities in the district. They are as follows:—

Woking and District Victoria Hospital.

Clinic for the treatment of Tuberculosis at Woking Dispensary, Clarence Avenue, Woking.

The Clinics for the treatment of Venereal Diseases situated at Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, and Woking Victoria Hospital.

Mental cases are received at the Mental Hospital, Brookwood.

### National Assistance Act, 1948

It was not found necessary to take any action during the year under section 47 of this Act.

### Ottershaw Isolation Hospital

The following table shows the number of cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital during 1949:—

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	50 cases
Diphtheria	..	..	..	2 „
Measles	..	..	..	12 „
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	..			2 „
Whooping Cough	..	..		3 „
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	9 „
Other Diseases	..	..	..	7 „
				—
Total	..	..	..	85 cases
				==

## MATERNITY

### Ante-natal and Post-natal Welfare

The excellent Maternity Home in Heathside Road, continued its invaluable service. 50 beds are kept, and during 1949, 1,343 patients were admitted as compared with 1,392 in 1948. 596 patients were admitted from Woking Urban District. Of the total, 550 were delivered by midwives, and 609 by doctors, the average duration of stay being 12·08 days. The operations carried out consisted of 82 Caesarean Sections. 3 Puerperal Pyrexia cases occurred.

*Midwives.*—The Home is an approved training school for midwives, and 34 nurses were trained and passed the Examinations of the Central Midwives' Board during the year. 2 midwives serve the district and attended 140 cases. The number of visits made totalled 2,589.



*Clinics.*—Ante-natal Clinics are held every Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Post-natal Clinics are held on the mornings of the 1st, 3rd and 4th Mondays in each month. The County Council hold clinics at the Home every Friday morning, Wednesday afternoons, and 2nd Monday mornings each month. Baby Clinics are held every Monday and Friday afternoons.

*Attendances:*—

Ante-natal Clinic	..	..	..	5,100
Baby Clinic	..	..	..	3,596

*OTHER.*—The Woking and District Victoria Hospital admitted 1,790 in-patients. Out-patient attendances totalled 9,107 including casualty cases, and 6,973 X-Ray examinations were made during 1949.

## WATER SUPPLY

As described in previous Reports, the water is supplied by the Woking Water Company from its stations at Chertsey, West Horsley, West Clandon, and a supply in bulk by statute from the Guildford Corporation. The West Surrey Water Company supplies the Byfleet area.

The Woking Water Company's mains were extended 10,589 yards in the Urban District during 1949, and those of the West Surrey Water Co. by 605 yards on St. Mary's Estate, Byfleet, and 710 yards in Brewery Lane, Byfleet.

With few exceptions water is laid on to the interior of the houses.

8 samples of Company water were taken and all were found to be satisfactory both bacteriologically and chemically.

*Wells.*—Twenty-eight houses are still dependent on shallow wells, numbering 23, for their water supply. Samples of these waters are taken regularly to check their purity. Of the total, 22 houses served by 15 wells could be connected to the mains. The remainder are too remote to make main supply practicable.

*Rivers and Streams.*—Administration of the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts is carried out by the Thames Conservancy Board.

*Food Poisoning.*—No outbreaks of food poisoning occurred during the year.

## Infectious Diseases, 1949

[illegible]



### Diphtheria Immunisation

434 children were immunised during the year as shown in the following table:—

School.	Number completely immunised.		
Kingfield C. Secondary .. ..	..	..	77
Monument Hill C. Primary .. ..	..	..	16
			<hr/>
			93
Pre-School Age Children .. ..	..	..	341
			<hr/>
Total .. ..	..	..	434
			<hr/> <hr/>

### Diphtheria Immunisation in Relation to Child Population

No. of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31/12/49

Age at 31/12/49, i.e. born in year .. ..	Under 1 1949	1 1948	2 1947	3 1946	4 1945	5-9 1940-44	10-14 1935-39	TOTAL Under 15
Number Immunised ..	30	293	337	348	338	2,410	2,855	6,611
Estimated mid-year child population, 1949 ..	3,808					6,832		10,640

### VACCINATION

165 children under 14 years of age, and 66 adults were vaccinated during the year.

### PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925

No action was necessary under these Regulations regarding tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SEC. 172

No action was needed for the compulsory removal to Hospital of infectious persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis whose lodging or accommodation prevented the adoption of proper precautions to prevent the spread of infection or who were not taking such precautions.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1949.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1 .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 .. ..	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
15-25 .. ..	13	2	1	2	1	—	—	—
25-35 .. ..	11	5	—	—	1	2	—	—
35-45 .. ..	6	6	1	—	1	1	1	—
45-55 .. ..	7	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
55-65 .. ..	5	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ..	44	18	3	2	7	4	2	—

The number of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year ending 31st December was 67, as will be seen from the following table:—

1. Number notified by General Practitioners .. ..	21
2. Number notified by Institutions .. ..	36
3. Number transferred to Woking .. ..	10

The following table shows the number of cases notified annually since 1940, and the number of deaths which occurred:—

YEAR	NUMBER ON REGISTER				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1940	71	72	33	34	7	6	1	—
1941	80	82	35	37	9	8	5	2
1942	90	93	36	41	8	8	2	—
1943	92	97	38	54	10	6	1	4
1944	106	105	43	59	12	8	1	3
1945	109	106	40	48	12	5	1	1
1946	128	114	41	48	9	6	1	1
1947	156	107	41	48	5	6	1	1
1948	157	111	38	46	8	4	—	—
1949	183	109	37	47	7	4	2	—

*Ophthalmia Neonatorum*.—No cases were notified during the year.

*Smallpox*.—No cases of Smallpox occurred during the year. Frequently contacts of cases occurring on board ship from the East arrive in this District; each case required visiting and observation.

*Pneumonia*.—During the past year 2 cases of Pneumonia were notified, and 14 deaths were recorded.

*Enteric Fever*.—No cases notified.

*Encephalitis Lethargica*.—There were no cases notified.

## PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the matter being in the hands of the Surrey County Council.

## SCHOOLS

Most of the Schools are of modern construction and all have water-closets drained to the sewers.

There is close co-operation with the School Medical Service of the Surrey County Council. The Regulations with respect to exclusion from school of infectious cases and contacts are strictly observed. The Head Teachers of the schools notify the Medical Officer of Health of absences from school of children suffering from any disease or ailment.

## SWIMMING POOLS

The Swimming Pool opened in 1935 in the Woking Park continues in popularity with residents and visitors. Its modern filtration, aeration and chlorination plant provides a complete turnover of the 425,000 gallons it contains every 4½ hours, and the water is tested for alkalinity and acidity twice daily. Bacteriological examination of the water was regularly carried out, 20 samples being submitted. These all proved to be satisfactory. During 1949, the number of admissions were 109,529 as against 71,046 for the year previous.

There are no privately-owned Swimming Pools open to the public in the district.



## RAINFALL (INCHES), 1949

*Records taken at Goldsworth Road Depot.*

Month	Monthly Totals	Greatest Fall in 24 Hours		Total Number of Raindays	Number of Days with .04 inch or more Rainfall
		Amount	Date		
January .. ..	0·87	0·27	3rd	12	7
February .. ..	1·10	0·41	8th	10	7
March .. ..	1·11	0·55	4th	6	5
April .. ..	2·27	0·54	28th	10	9
May .. ..	1·74	0·72	23rd	9	8
June .. ..	0·66	0·54	3rd	5	3
July .. ..	0·60	0·43	17th	6	4
August .. ..	1·34	0·52	1st	7	6
September .. ..	0·66	0·26	14th	6	4
October .. ..	6·25	1·10	8th	15	14
November .. ..	2·52	0·52	20th	14	12
December .. ..	1·37	0·41	13th	13	8
Totals .. ..	20·49	1·10 in. on Oct. 8th		113	87

*Records taken at Scotland Bridge Depot, Byfleet.*

Month	Monthly Totals	Greatest Fall in 24 Hours		Total Number of Raindays	Number of Days with .04 inch or more Rainfall
		Amount	Date		
January .. ..	0·96	0·20	3rd	9	9
February .. ..	0·96	0·35	8th	6	5
March .. ..	1·09	0·46	4th	4	4
April .. ..	2·18	0·47	28th	8	8
May .. ..	1·95	0·77	23rd	8	8
June (Gauge stolen)	—	—	—	—	—
July .. ..	0·90	0·75	17th	3	3
August .. ..	1·56	0·50	1st & 2nd	7	6
September .. ..	0·80	0·31	24th	6	6
October .. ..	5·78	1·08	23rd	11	11
November .. ..	2·46	0·50	20th	13	12
December .. ..	1·44	0·46	13th	11	9
Totals .. ..	20·08	1·08 in. on Oct. 23rd		86	81

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*Annual Report*  
*of the*  
*Chief Sanitary Inspector*  
*for 1949*

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**To the Chairman and Members of the  
Public Health Committee**

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

The Sanitary Inspector shares with all other Officers of local authorities the sense of frustration which is inevitably created in our work by such factors as central administration and economic difficulties. It is obvious that unless and until more normal conditions prevail the sense of achievement which used to be a feature of our work will be lacking to some extent, because so much time has to be expended to obtain satisfactory results on matters which at one time were relatively simple.

In Woking housing repair work continues to provide problems. Without doubt there has been some improvement in the availability of labour and materials, but the high cost of these often deters owners from proceeding with the alacrity which occurred in pre-war years. Again, much of the house repair work of to-day is of an exceptionally poor quality and must inevitably involve a recurrence of expenditure in the future. Although our duties are clearly defined, one cannot but sympathise with the average landlord of to-day who finds himself compelled to carry out repairs at a high cost on properties which yield no income and often a loss.

The examination of foodstuffs, and the sampling of milk, ice cream and water continue to receive the increasing attention which has become a necessary vogue and our efforts in this direction at least supply proof that the general standards maintained are satisfactory and provide no cause for concern. A number of special investigations were necessary during the year in regard to both milk and ice cream, but in all cases the outcome was successful.

The relationship with the workers engaged on the cleansing services remains extremely satisfactory and no undue difficulties were experienced other than the supply of labour. Availability of labour for cleansing work threatens to be a major problem of the future. The co-operation of the staff has been of great help to me and no review of the work of the year would be complete without reference to Mr. L. E. Snelling, without whose assistance much of the work detailed in these pages would have remained undone. The pleasure I shared in the well-deserved promotion he received was tinged only with regret that our direct association was of such short duration.

The trust and confidence of the Councillors and the obviously sincere help afforded me at all times by the Chief Officers of the other

Departments have helped materially to aid and ease my work, and I conclude by expressing my thanks to all for the assistance I have received in this way.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. DAVIES,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*

### SANITARY INSPECTION

The following table is here included in accordance with the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and is a summary of the inspections made during the year.

(a) Number and Nature of Inspections for 1949:—

Inspections under Housing Act, 1936	..	..	..	29
Inspections of dwellings under Public Health Acts	..			1,357
Inspections of dwellings occupied by applicants for				
Council Houses	..	..	..	223
Enquiries <i>re</i> infectious diseases	..	..	..	558
Inspections of verminous premises	..	..	..	37
Investigations <i>re</i> overcrowding	..	..	..	104
Visits to slaughterhouses	..	..	..	177
Inspection of cowsheds and dairies	..	..	..	242
,,     ,,   bakehouses	..	..	..	85
,,     ,,   moveable dwellings	..	..	..	82
,,     ,,   factories	..	..	..	100
,,     ,,   food premises	..	..	..	306
,,     ,,   meat and other foods	..	..	..	262
,,     ,,   premises where ice cream is manufactured,				
stored or sold	..	..	..	120
,,     ,,   drains	..	..	..	213
,,     ,,   premises <i>re</i> defective dustbins	..	..	..	456
Inspections concerning smoke nuisance	..	..	..	11
,,     ,,   mosquitoes	..	..	..	32
,,     ,,   Shops Act, 1934 (Section 10)	..			12
,,     ,,   rodent infestation (by Sanitary				
Inspectors)	..	..	..	245
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	185
				<hr/>
Inspections	..	..	..	4,836
Re-inspections	..	..	..	4,328
				<hr/>
				9,164
				<hr/> <hr/>

## (b) Notices served:—

Number of Preliminary Notices served during the year ..	835
Number of Statutory Notices served .. .. .	116
1. Under Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 75 .. ..	31
2. Under Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 93 .. ..	65
3. Under Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 9 .. .. .	20

Improvements have been effected by the Sanitary Inspectors as follows:—

Rooms cleansed .. .. .	154
Wall plaster renewed or repaired .. .. .	171
Ceiling plaster renewed or repaired .. .. .	84
Floors repaired .. .. .	252
Lighting and ventilation provided .. .. .	2
Doors repaired or provided .. .. .	37
Window sashes and frames repaired or provided ..	120
Staircases and stairs renewed or repaired .. ..	2
Stoves and grates renewed or repaired .. .. .	64
Coppers or parts thereof renewed or repaired .. ..	22
Sinks renewed or repaired .. .. .	31
Sills, steps, lintels, arches renewed or repaired ..	37
Pail and water closets cleansed, provided or repaired ..	49
R.W.P.s provided or repaired .. .. .	22
Chimney stacks repaired .. .. .	26
Drainage opened and cleansed .. .. .	37
Drainage repaired .. .. .	43
Back yards paved .. .. .	15
Sanitary dustbins provided .. .. .	385
Eavesgutters provided or repaired .. .. .	51
Roofs repaired .. .. .	115
Pointings renewed .. .. .	40
Renderings, weathertilings provided .. .. .	40
Brickwork renewed .. .. .	6
Dampness remedied other than above .. .. .	76
Wholesome supply of water provided .. .. .	1
Defects remedied at:	
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops .. .. .	8
Meat and Food premises .. .. .	5
Factories, Slaughterhouses, Bakehouses and Licensed Premises .. .. .	5
Miscellaneous .. .. .	12
Number of samples of milk taken for analysis .. ..	95
,,   ,, samples of water taken for analysis .. ..	56



*Improvements effected.—continued.*

Number of samples of ice cream taken for analysis	..	106
„ „ samples of other foodstuffs, etc.	.. ..	14
„ „ new houses certified as having a wholesome supply of water	.. .. ..	82
„ „ verminous rooms fumigated, etc.	.. ..	242
„ „ rooms disinfected after cases of disease	..	167

## HOUSING

*I.—Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year.*

- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) and the number of inspections made:—
  - (a) Houses .. .. . 1,386
  - (b) Inspections .. .. . 1,386
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925:—
  - (a) Houses .. .. . 29
  - (b) Inspections .. .. . 29
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. . —
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. 1,341

*II.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	.. .. .	897
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*III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.**(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—*

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. . 20

## (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners .. .. .	18
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	—

## (B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. ..	96
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners .. .. .	131
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..	—

## (C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices of Time and Place at which the question of making a Demolition Order will be considered (Section II (1)) ..	—
(4) Number of undertakings to carry out works accepted ..	—
(5) Number of houses rendered fit .. .. .	—
(6) Undertakings cancelled—the works having been carried out .. .. .	—

## (D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made .. ..	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..	—



IV.—*Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.*

(a) (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. .. .	77
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein .. .. .	103
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein .. .. .	451
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. .. .	17
(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year through re-housing by the Council .. .. .	23
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases .. .. .	108
(d)	Cases in which dwelling-houses became overcrowded after steps were taken for the abatement of overcrowding .. .. .	—

## FACTORY INSPECTION

## 1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	95	38	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	240	62	12	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	—	—	—	—
Total .. .. .	335	100	15	—

## 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	8	8	—	6	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .. ..	1	1	—	1	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .. ..	2	2	—	2	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient ..	4	4	—	3	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective .. ..	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total .. ..	17	17	—	12	—

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Number of sites used .. .. .	17
Licences issued during the year under Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 269 .. .. .	10
Estimated number of campers resident at one time .. ..	59

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

During the year 13 houses, including 6 Council houses, were found to be infested to varying degrees with bed bugs. The method of disinfestation usually employed is spraying with D.D.T. compounds.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Clean Food Campaigns

Lack of sufficient staff has precluded any special action in regard to clean food campaigns although the routine work has of course been continued. Towards the end of the year the Council gave consideration to the staff problems and as a result of these deliberations it is confidently expected that special action will be possible in relation to clean food campaigns.

### Milk Supply

The year 1949 brought vast changes in regard to the production and distribution of milk. The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act of 1944 came into operation on October 1st, and as a result the supervision of milk production passed from the local authority to the Ministry of Agriculture. Again, under the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations the licensing and supervision of pasteurising establishments has passed into the hands of the Food and Drugs Authority which in our case is the County Council. (As there is only one pasteurising plant operating in this area the County has appointed me to carry out their functions for this particular purpose.)

Other new legislation introduced during the year included Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Arising out of the changed circumstances the local authority is now responsible only for the registration of milk distributors and the supervision of their premises and the granting of dealers' licences and supplementary licences under the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations.

Eight purveyors hold dealers' licences for the sale of Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised Milk, and 2 for the sale of Sterilised Milk.

In addition, 3 supplementary licences are in force for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk, 4 for Pasteurised Milk and 1 for Sterilised Milk.

It is interesting to note that only 18 firms are now involved in the distribution of milk in the area.

### Control

During the year 242 inspections were made of cowsheds and dairies and 34 defects were remedied.



Ninety-three samples were taken from farms, shops and roundsmen for bacteriological examination: 61 Pasteurised Milk, 13 Tuberculin Tested Milk, 3 Accredited Milk, 16 Ordinary Milk. Of the samples taken 19 failed to pass the required tests.

### Ice Cream

The sale of ice cream appears to be on the increase and the demand is such as to persuade an increasing number of traders to include ice cream as one of their lines.

The introduction of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, created in Woking an immediate reduction in the number of manufacturers of ice cream, but registrations for the sale of pre-packed proprietary types continue to increase. At the close of the year 6 manufacturers were registered and 76 for sale only.

A small number of traders also make and sell ice lollies, usually nothing more than a frozen mixture of fruit cordial and water. The increasing popularity of the product has created an urgent need to maintain close inspection and supervision of manufacturers and dealers' premises and to ensure that standards of manufacture and handling are sufficient to produce a high degree of bacterial cleanliness.

Unfortunately we are still without a legal standard for ice cream, but in an area such as this, where the bulk of supplies are derived from the larger manufacturers, the majority of the ice cream sold is of as high a quality as the availability of ingredients will permit.

Seventy-six premises were registered for the sale of ice cream and 6 for the manufacture of ice cream.

One hundred and six samples of ice cream were collected during the year, of which 51 were classified in Grade 1, 21 in Grade 2, 26 in Grade 3 and 8 in Grade 4.

### Meat and Other Foods

There are five licensed private slaughterhouses in the district. These are regularly inspected and all carcasses of animals slaughtered locally are examined.

All shops, stores, vehicles and places where food is prepared are visited regularly to ensure that hygienic standards are maintained.

The total amount of unsound food surrendered during the year was 4 tons 1 cwt. 0 qr. 16 $\frac{1}{4}$  lbs.



The amount of food surrendered is made up as follows:—

[illegible]

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .. ..	—	—	13	2	355
Number inspected .. ..	—	—	13	2	355
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>					
Whole carcases condemned..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>					
Whole carcases condemned..	—	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned..	—	—	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .. ..	—	—	—	—	1·13

## Adulteration

The administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is carried out by the Surrey County Council, who have kindly supplied the following list of samples taken during the year in the Woking district.

Articles	Analysed			Adulterated or Irregular			Prosecutions	Convictions
	Formal	In-formal	Total	Formal	In-formal	Total		
Milk .. ..	74	7	81	2	—	2	—	—
Apple Sauce with Sugar .. ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Effervescing Powder .. ..	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
Gelatine .. ..	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Ground Ginger ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream ..	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Milk, Dried ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Non-alcoholic Wines .. ..	2	1	3	1	1	2	1	1
Saccharin and Sweetening Tablets .. ..	1	4	5	—	1	1	—	—
Salad Cream ..	2	6	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sausage Meat ..	6	1	7	—	1	1	—	—
Soft Drinks ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .. ..	94	23	117	4	3	7	1	1

### BURIAL OF THE DEAD

Ministry of Health Circular 13/49 emphasised that where persons died whilst under the care and welfare of the County Council, it was more appropriate for the County Council to make the arrangements for burial. As almost all the burials previously arranged by this Department were those of persons dying in Brookwood Hospital and as the Hospital agreed to undertake this duty, our work in this respect showed a marked decrease. Only 4 funerals were arranged throughout the year.

### RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

The new section of the Department, created to provide effective control over rats, mice and other insect pests completed the first full year of operation.

Two experienced operators are employed and Morris 8 vans are provided for transport and for the carriage of equipment. Up-to-date methods are used both in the destruction of rats and mice and also for fumigation and disinfestation generally.

During the year more than 250 complaints were investigated 170 of which related to rats or mice infestations. In addition, contract work was performed by routine on 64 premises for which payment is received and on 14 Council properties. During the closing months of the year the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries required a test

baiting of Town sewers and 80 manholes were selected and treated in accordance with instructions received. This test showed a slight infestation of the sewers.

The following is a summary of the work done in relation to rats and mice:—

Number of premises treated .. ..	688
Estimated kill—rats .. ..	2,190
Estimated kill—mice .. ..	733

Other insect pests for which effective treatments were given included flies, cockroaches, beetles, moths, ants, wasps, bees, and fleas. 47 wasps nests were removed and destroyed during the summer.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The construction of new houses and the present trend of conversion of large houses into flats results in a gradual but constant increase in the number of dustbins to be emptied. At present more than 14,000 are emptied weekly. Set against the lack of available labour during the year under review this created a problem in the maintenance of the weekly collection system and we felt fortunate in maintaining the regular collection throughout the whole of the year. The problem could quite easily develop in the future as year by year the average age of the dustman increases. In other words, younger men are rarely attracted to the service and the work has to be accomplished by older men who, however willing, find their work increasingly hard.

### Refuse Disposal

Woking is fortunate enough to possess no disposal problems and the arrangements already made provide for adequate disposal for a considerable number of years.

In November a Fordson Tractor and Muledozer equipment was acquired to accomplish controlled tipping, and by the end of the year it was obvious that a marked improvement in disposal was being achieved at substantially lower cost than had been incurred on hand labour.

### Salvage

1949 was a year of uncertainty in relation to salvage work. Prices fluctuated and at times such items as bottles and jars found no market at all. The wastepaper situation towards the end of the year was confused. In Woking we were still able to sell our wastepaper, presumably due to our geographical situation, coupled with the fact that we were supplying direct to the mills and had been doing so throughout the war. Other areas were not so fortunate and supplies of baled paper accumulated rapidly. The position culminated in October with a fall in price to a level which showed a marked decrease in the gross income.



In spite of everything the year's total of wastepaper collected reached the impressive figure of 440 tons.

The staff employed during 1949 on this work was as follows:—

General Foreman	..	..	..	1
Collection of Refuse	..	..	..	31
Disposal of Refuse	..	..	..	2
Salvage .. .. .	..	..	..	4
				<hr/>
				38
				<hr/>

The main totals of salvage sold during the year were:—

Wastepaper	..	..	..	440 tons
Iron Scrap (and tins)	..	..	..	78 „
Non-ferrous metals	..	..	..	5 „
Textiles .. .. .	..	..	..	12½ „
Bottles and Jars	..	..	..	18¾ „

### CESSPOOL EMPTYING

More than 700 dwellings within the area are still drained to cesspools and the Council endeavours to provide a cleansing service at satisfactory intervals. Four cesspool emptying machines were available for use throughout most of the year, but serious labour problems created a position whereby the number of machines in use at any one time rarely exceeded two.

The work of cesspool emptying would appear to be less arduous than that of refuse collecting; nevertheless, my experience is that the present-day workman is opposed to this task and only a degree of unemployment will produce applicants for the work.

During the year some 4,009,200 gallons of sewage were removed from cesspools, the transportation of which necessitated approximately 20,000 miles being traversed by our vehicles. Some indication is therefore shown of the expensive nature of this service.

More than 150 pail closets are still emptied weekly by the Council, a task which perhaps more than any other reveals our slow rate of health progress in this country and which surely provides much cause for thought.

### WASTE FOOD COLLECTION

The collection of kitchen waste from the street bins maintained by the Council is now carried out directly by the pig and poultry keepers concerned. The scheme involves no financial loss on the part of the Council and possesses the advantage that the bins are emptied at much more frequent intervals.